

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Armenia)

DATE DISTR 29 DEC 49

SUBJECT City of Leninakan

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PLACE

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The city of Leninakan is built on rather hard ground. There are wheat and barley fields in the level ground around the city, but there is also much barren ground.
2. The city, which was not affected by World War II, is built in the old style of architecture. There has been no recent change in the basic city plan. There are old towers in the southern part of the city and a church in the center of the city. The city has grown in an irregular manner, not according to any plan. The streets are straight and wide and are electrically lighted. Three or four motor cars can pass at a time in the streets. The numbers of the streets are written in white on plates of black sheet iron which are fixed at the street heads. On one side of the street houses bear even numbers and on the other side bear odd numbers. Gorkava, Sivchenka, Uskin, Plekhonov, Lenin, and Stalin are the principal streets.
3. The buildings used as residences are generally one-storied. The buildings in the center of the city which are used as government departments, banks, institutes, hotels, clubs, and theaters are two-storied. The State buildings do not have any characteristic style. The barracks of the 261st Infantry Division, which is just outside the city, also is two-storied. There are few buildings in Leninakan built as blocks of flats. The roofs are generally covered with tile. In addition, there are mud-covered houses such as the ones in Bazarum, Turkey. The buildings are generally gray.
4. The population of the city is 85-90 percent Armenian. There are few Russians and Georgians. Thousands of workers who came to work at the textile factory have increased the population. The Armenians who migrated to Soviet Armenia from foreign countries are also adding to the population. There are Tatar, Azerbaidzhan, and Uzbek minority groups. The Armenians belong to the Orthodox faith, but there are the followers of another sect among them who do not eat pork.
5. The only railway station is in the southern part of the city and is known as the Leninakan station. The freight yards are near the main building. There are about 12 lines. The station is two-storied and whitewashed. On the new lines, all the stations are made of brick and painted white.

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6. Leninakan is connected with Tbilisi, Yerevan, and Kars by main rail lines. It is also connected with Artik by a secondary line 30 kilometers long. The lines going to these cities are single tracked. Two passenger trains pass through Leninakan daily, running between Tbilisi and Yerevan. There are a few trains weekly to and from Kars, Turkey. Two passenger trains run daily to and from Artik, one in the morning and one in the evening. Also five or six freight trains pass through the station. The trains are run by steam engines.
7. There is a military airfield 5-6 km southwest of the city.
8. There are buses running from the station to the center of the city and from the center of the city to Maralik (30 kms. south). The buses accommodate 20 - 30 persons. They are yellow and red, but the part covering the engine is always painted dark green. The fare between the center of the city and the station is 50 kopeks. Soldiers in uniform do not travel free. There are also taxis, which are painted dark green.
9. The city militia has only normal police functions. It regulates traffic and maintains order inside the city.
10. The prices are fixed by the State. There is no local price-fixing. Goods such as radios and sugar, which are produced in general by the State and are under State monopoly, are sold at the same prices all over the Soviet Union. For example, sugar is 13 rubles in Leninakan and in Moscow as well. The prices of foodstuffs which are not under State monopoly but are produced by the private individuals vary in accordance with local conditions. Every kind of consumer goods exists in the cooperative and government stores. As the people have no purchasing capacity, there is no black market at present. During the war, because nothing could be obtained from the cooperatives, there did exist a black market. The purchasing capacity of the population of each city is taken into consideration when consumer goods are distributed to the cooperatives. There are no suits of very good quality at the stores in Leninakan because no one in Leninakan could afford to wear such a suit. In Moscow there are very good suits in the stores, because there are many persons in that city who dress well.
11. The population of Leninakan is employed in the textile factory, the glass factory, the nest combines, and in various trades. The workers are free to look for work. Every Soviet citizen who reaches working age applies to the factory or institute which needs laborers and has published notices to this effect. He fills a form and starts to work immediately; that is all the formality required. It is very difficult to transfer to another factory while working at one factory. There are special laws about laborers. A laborer, on becoming ill, is sent to a doctor. If his ailment forbids his working, he obtains his medicine and takes a rest of the required length. He receives his full wages during this period of rest, is given an increased diet, and receives foodstuffs free of charge.
12. A paper called Bera is published in Armenian in Leninakan. There is no Russian paper in the city.
13. There are public loudspeakers in parks and squares in Leninakan. However, individuals can have their own receivers, which can be purchased for cash without coupons. Ownership of private receivers is not subject to any restrictions. New types of radios have been manufactured in Soviet radio factories since the war, including the following types: Rokov, Rabado, Salyut, and Pioneerka. In addition, radios and other commodities, such as clothing and furniture, were brought by soldiers and officers from European countries after World War II and have not been collected by the government. Anyone possessing a radio set can listen to foreign stations and in theory it is not forbidden to do so, but individuals are very much afraid to do so.

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The antennas are made of thin copper wires and are in single or double lines on roofs. The receivers which most persons have

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are single loudspeakers connected with a line which passes to the street. In this way, the only broadcast that can be heard is that provided by the central radio station. At places where there is no electricity, radios are run by batteries. Dry batteries are sold by electric shops for money without document. Complete spare equipment, earphones, and tubes for a radio can be secured from electrical shops. Even young radio amateurs build small receivers.

14. Besides the elementary and the secondary schools, [] there 25X1
is an institute of music and a technical institute in Leninakan. There is an Armenian theater, a Russian theater, and two cinemas. The Russian theater is at the disposal of the Army. Football and other sports are played for recreation.
15. There are no army units inside the city of Leninakan.
16. Power for the city of Leninakan is supplied from the hydro-electric station. As the city has much power, the neighboring villages and factories also receive their electric energy from this station. There are central transformers. The current is supplied constantly, 24 hours a day, and is 220 volts in the center of the city and slightly higher in the neighboring houses.

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